

are now striving for, not only in the broad field of health, but in other fields of good citizenship. If there is a single item in this "Bill of Health-rights"—so-called "guidance" service—that every worthwhile physician is not doing his best, either as Doctor A working alone or as Doctors A, B, C and others working in groups, to bring about, we would like to know what it is.

Another indication that "Child Guidance Clinic" is a slogan rather than a new movement—except in one particular to be presently noticed—is in the fact that scores of Doctors A, B, C's, who previously worked under some other designation, are now coming out under the—for the movement—popular title of "guidance clinic." There will be several of them in California within a year or so, and in a few more years they will be forgotten or the same worthy ideal will be again resloganized.

There is one feature of the much-promoted "guidance clinic" movement which seems to constitute its chief motivating force, as it does so many "new" movements in health. It is, that it must spring full-panoplied as a wholesale measure under government or some national (usually non-medical) organization control and direction. Our Doctors A, B, C must, for the time being, metamorphose themselves over night into new beings with vastly increased wisdom and powers of leadership under government or some other wealthy and not too inquisitive body. In other words, the promotion of things medical and social now follows something of the same channels used in promoting a new breakfast food or a new patent medicine. The essential feature of such promotion is salesmanship, which, if well enough managed and well enough financed, will create a desire for anything.

The paper by Doctor Rosanoff (page 167, this issue) illustrates more in detail the working of the movement for "child guidance" on a large scale. *One of the chief points in this movement is that all services to all people, regardless of their financial situation, are free of direct cost to the patient.* The very large costs connected with this service are noted by Doctor Rosanoff, as well as the present method of meeting these costs.

Doctor Rosanoff himself, an earnest advocate of this group method of practice, says: "The clinic procedure contains nothing that is new to mental science, except perhaps as it involves a more complete organization for the carrying out of all that we know has to be done."

LOS ANGELES AND THE PLAGUE

The prompt, scientific and effective methods employed by Los Angeles in stamping out almost at its birth a threatening epidemic of pneumonic plague is a performance highly creditable to that city, and sets an example that might well form a precedent for the guidance of other municipalities in times to come:

"No visitation," says the Arizona Republican editorially, "containing more frightful possibilities ever fell upon an American city. There was never in any plague a higher percentage of fatality, and there was never one more readily communicable. A little ignorance on the part of the authorities, a little hesitation or delay, and there would have been witnessed the most frightful devastation."

"Los Angeles is not resting on its oars since this one

voyage is safely ended. Within a week it has appropriated \$250,000 for a campaign against rats and squirrels; it has passed an ordinance requiring that new construction—and old construction as well—shall be rat-proof; that old buildings to which precautionary measures cannot be applied shall be destroyed.

"There are few cities and towns in America so guarded. We suppose there is no other so worshiped by the people who live in it. Los Angeles is a religion of Angelenos. We have jibed them often for their self-assertiveness and for purloining our Grand Canyon of the Colorado, but, after this, their greatest exhibition of readiness and efficiency, we forgive them all."

And so a great city, by wise and prompt action, converted what gave promise of becoming a calamity into an asset of far-reaching consequences. Although reputed to have an unusually high percentage of anti-medical citizens and to be the home of many kinds of versatile quacks, the city's action in times of serious trouble seems to show that, at most, the quackery is but a thin veneer easily brushed aside to give their educated medical agencies a free hand and generous support.

WHO PAYS THE DEFICIT?

Persons who contribute to the support of the free and part-pay work of hospitals have asked if the hospital rates paid by the State Industrial Insurance organization (state fund) were sufficient to cover the cost of the service rendered to their policyholders, and if not *who pays the deficit?*

This is a pertinent question, the answer to which may be interesting, not only to contributors to private charity, but to other citizens, and particularly to those who are served.

We know of no instance where carriers of industrial insurance operating under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act of California pay hospital rates sufficient to cover the cost of the class of service that the injured workman is entitled to under the law.

The airing of this question in another state led promptly to an increase in the rates paid by carriers to at least the *cost of the service to the hospital.*

Additional data are being secured, and we will discuss fully several angles of this most interesting problem and some of the consequences of present practices in an early number of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

OF INTEREST TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Now that the 1925 session of the California Medical Association is approaching, it seems advisable to anticipate some of the usual questions and requests made by authors about publication of their essays.

The author of a paper presented before the California Medical Association or any of its sections, may offer his paper for publication in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, but he is not *required* to do so as was the case prior to three years ago. Likewise, CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE may accept or decline any paper from any source whatsoever. Members who wish to offer their papers to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE should send them to Emma W. Pope, secretary C. M. A.